

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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## WIC RECEIVES HIGHEST PERFORMANCE RATING FROM WHITE HOUSE

**San Bernardino.** The nationwide, federally funded Women Infants and Children's (WIC) program has received the highest rating possible for program performance from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Only 19 percent of federal programs are currently rated as "Effective" by the OMB, the agency responsible for evaluation.

According to the report, "WIC has received the highest rating a program can achieve because WIC has ambitious goals, achieves results, is well-managed and improves program efficiencies." WIC participants must be pregnant, breastfeeding, and post-partum women, infants and children up to age five.

WIC is a program of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. Betsy Cline, the County's Program Manager who oversees the WIC Program, stated that "the criteria for this ranking includes the positive impact WIC has had on health outcomes such as reducing the incidence of low birth-weight, which leads to a cost savings in Medi-Cal/Medicaid costs."

"The San Bernardino County WIC Program serves approximately 84,000 women, infants and children each month," said Cline. "We issue vouchers for nutritious foods to supplement diets, provide information on healthy eating, encourage and support breastfeeding, and give referrals to needed health care and social services at 17 sites countywide." WIC food vouchers include items such as milk, eggs, cheese, whole grain bread and cereals, fruits, and vegetables and may be exchanged at participating grocery stores. Specific to these food vouchers, the OMB report noted that over the last 15 years the national average WIC food package cost has increased at a rate below the general rate of food inflation which has allowed the program to maximize services to eligible participants.

For more information about the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health WIC program, call (800) 472-2321, or visit the website at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/wic/>.

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